

Poor airport security has become a reality. The events of September 11 have shown us that airport security needs a dramatic and drastic overhaul.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3150 is the right solution to improving our aviation safety in the skies over America, and in order to make flying safer and our airports more secure, we must federalize our airport security standards. H.R. 3150 puts to good use more than \$500 million that will bolster the front lines of airport security. It will place more air marshals in the skies and in our airlines. It will mandate fortified cockpit doors and give flexibility when it comes to hiring either Federal security personnel or federally certified security contractors. Support H.R. 3150.

FEDERALIZED SYSTEM PROVIDES UNIFORMITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

(Ms. NORTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows we are in a recession. What America knows is that this body is deepening that recession by the delay in our airline security bill. There is a new fear of flying and there are enormous disincentives to flying that are having an atrocious effect on our economy.

What will it take to make the pictures of September 11 and the Twin Towers recede? People want something close to a guarantee that it will not happen again, guarantees we cannot give them.

What we can give them is a uniform system of public accountability for screening and airline safety. By definition, private contractors are not uniform. That, indeed, is one of their advantages. They give us diversity. It is not diversity we need when it comes to screening and airline safety.

What the public is demanding in order to get them back in the air is that we maximize uniformity and that we maximize accountability. The only way to do that is to federalize in the air the way law enforcement operates on the ground.

NO INTERRUPTIONS IN WAR ON TERRORISM

(Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our military's ongoing efforts in the war against terrorism. In the last 25 days, the military campaign has succeeded in weakening the power, influence, and warfighting capability of the Taliban regime and the al-Qaeda network.

Now, as the hardest of Afghanistan's winter months set in, we are provided

with an excellent opportunity to increase the pressure on the Taliban through the continuation of our military campaign.

Mr. Speaker, we stood before the American people and the international community and declared the war on terrorism to be a war with many fronts. It is imperative that this war's military front continue to be fought without interruption.

Mr. Speaker, the decision to postpone military action under any circumstance plays directly into the hands of those who seek to destroy us. Despite the intentions of our decision, each day we remain idle is a day for the Taliban and al-Qaeda to resupply and disperse assets at a time when the radical Islamic militia could be most vulnerable.

GRAND IMAM OF EGYPT DENOUNCES TERRORISM

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, we in Congress have joined the President in making clear that this is not a war between the West and the East or a war against Islam. This is not a war between America and Afghanistan. In fact, we are doing as much as we can right now to help the people of Afghanistan. This is a war between all civilized nations and the barbaric terrorists and those who harbor them.

Just a few days ago, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, the highest and most respected Islamic authority in the world, who resides in Egypt, also made this clear. The Grand Imam said that the Koran specifically forbids the kinds of things the Taliban and al-Qaeda are guilty of. He said the jihad Osama bin Laden has called for against America is invalid and not binding on Muslims. He said that "Islam rejects all of these acts." He called terrorism un-Islamic. In fact, he says, "Killing innocent civilians is a horrific, hideous act that no religion can approve."

Mr. Speaker, this war may take a long time to win, but we will win it and the world will remain united against terrorism and removing evil terrorists like Osama bin Laden from the caves where they hide.

PASS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, we have to pass trade promotion authority now. If we do not, we will let down America's world-class workers, farmers and businesses.

The global marketplace is increasingly competitive. Without TPA,

America will lag behind. Our foreign competitors have negotiated some 130 preferential agreements while we, absent TPA, have negotiated exactly three. We need to get back in the game.

International trade is an essential and growing source of economic expansion. Exports accounted for over 25 percent of all U.S. economic growth over the last decade and support an estimated 12 million jobs. If we do not pass TPA, we risk losing our competitive edge to other nations who will continue to negotiate deals while we sit on the sidelines. With trade promotion authority, we can level the playing field.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. companies, workers, and farmers are second to none. We need TPA to make sure the rules are fair. The companies, the workers and the farmers will do the rest.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING MIAMI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, American children are learning the value of charity by helping the Afghan children, and adults are learning that educating our children and keeping them healthy are ways to contribute to the rebuilding of our Nation.

That is why I congratulate today Miami Children's Hospital, whose motto is "We are here for our children." This hospital is always seeking innovative ways to better serve the children of south Florida.

Miami Children's Hospital held a groundbreaking to further expand and renovate its medical campus. A radiology expansion, an ambulatory care building, a helistop, and a hurricane-proof encapsulation comprise the projects.

Miami Children's Hospital is indeed "building on a dream," the name it has labeled its new projects, and it is demonstrating a never ending commitment to kids. Since 1950, Miami Children's Hospital has been the leader in pediatric care, and I offer my congratulations for its many achievements.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN DIPLOMAS

(Mr. GUTKNECHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, Rex Arnold Pettis and Mike Pelach are two men among many who interrupted their high school educations to respond to the call of duty by serving our country during World War II, Rex on a submarine in the Pacific sinking Japanese ships, and Mike as a medic in New Guinea.

While not in the classroom, World War II vets continued their education through experience: Geography, foreign languages, science, strategic planning, all essential in their battle to succeed.

Many of these brave men and women never had the chance to return to the classroom to complete their diplomas. Ray Alvin Pettis, twin brother of Rex, died on the battlefield in France. Fifty years later, Mr. Pettis and Mr. Pelach are receiving their high school diplomas.

For the third year, Independent School District 192 in Farmington, Minnesota, and the Farmington Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion are honoring these World War II vets in a special graduation ceremony. Mr. James Robert Borman, who passed away just last week, and Mr. Ray Alvin Pettis, will also be honored posthumously for their service in the Air Force and Army, respectively.

It is only proper that we honor these who honor the call to duty, sacrificing important years of their lives for the benefit of all. I am grateful to these men for their valor and sacrifices, and I congratulate ISD 192, the American Legion, and the VFW in Farmington for honoring them with a graduation ceremony and high school diplomas.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE NEEDS TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, American agriculture needs trade promotion authority. Without granting the President the authority to negotiate preferential trade agreements, this industry is guaranteed to face dark days. Ninety-six percent of agricultural growers' potential market is outside of the United States. It is a business there for taking, but if we do not give our farmers and ranchers the tools they need to compete in the world market, other countries will gladly fill the gap.

Today, of the 133 preferential trade agreements worldwide, the U.S. participates in only two. Compare that to the European Union, who participates in 27. Furthermore, the European Union also outspends us almost four to one on subsidies. Granting Presidential trade authority is our only weapon of combat on the uneven playing field of world agriculture.

We cannot continue to stand idly by while other nations improve trading opportunities for themselves. Our agriculture industry is the most productive in the world. It is an honor and status that should be rewarded, and the best reward we can give our agricultural growers for their efforts, and to keep our country prosperous, is to pass trade promotion authority.

SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISION OF A FLEXIBLE, VERSATILE AIRPORT SECURITY SYSTEM

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I am new to this body, having spent all 42 years of my life in the State of Indiana, where common sense and common values are the order of the day. So as I approach the debate over airport security, I find myself a little befuddled, Mr. Speaker.

Other than policy wonks at think tanks around Washington, D.C., I think there are very few people that I serve who care how we make airports safer. They just want us to do it, and they want us to do it now.

For my part, I believe the light we should follow at this point is the experience of nations who have dealt with terrorism in the recent past, and we should follow a President who has earned the right to be followed, and earned our trust.

I support President Bush's vision for a flexible, versatile system for airport security. That is what the Republican bill in the House is all about. It builds on the experience of European countries and even of Israel, who have wrestled with this menace of terrorism for decades.

When it comes to airport security, let us give the President and the people we serve what we know works.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE AIR- LINE SECURITY BILL AND OPPO- SITION TO THE DEMOCRAT SUB- STITUTE

(Mr. DOOLITTLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House will take up the airline security bill. This is a good bill. It gives the President the flexibility he needs to protect Americans as they fly. I would urge support of this legislation and defeat of the Democrat substitute.

The heart of the Democrat substitute is a mandate to make the security checkers all Federal employees. Europe has gone down that road and has rejected it.

Let me just quote out of the Washington Post what the chairman of the Europe-wide Task Force on Aviation Security had to say regarding contract employees versus government employees:

"It is harder to do quality control on our government people," said Frank Durinckx, director of Belgium's Aviation Inspectorate and chairman of Europe-wide Task Force on Aviation Security. "Government agencies do not like to criticize themselves or one an-

other, and civil servants are hard to get rid of if they are not performing well. If we give the work to a private contractor, we have control over them," Durinckx said. "If we are not pleased with a screener, we can withdraw their license."

Let us support President Bush. Support the House aviation security bill tomorrow and defeat the Democrat substitute.

WE NEED HIGH-QUALITY U.S. CITIZENS AS AIRPORT SCREENERS

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, U.S. citizens should protect U.S. citizens at airports. Over 90 percent of the screeners who let terrorists board at Dulles Airport were not Americans. Some of them were illegal aliens.

The Young-Mica bill requires that all screeners be Americans. The Senate bill has no such requirement. The Young-Mica bill also requires that all screeners be deputized, badged, and uniformed Federal transportation security officers.

Like the successful U.S. Marshals Court Security Officers Program, we will deploy Federal transportation security officers who are well-trained and paid, but with key flexibility. Flexibility. It means that we will not protect nationalized employers who incompetently screen weapons or explosives aboard aircraft, killing more Americans. Flexibility means we can fire screeners who fail to protect us.

We need high quality screeners who will ensure that when we fly, we fly safe.

AIRPORT SECURITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about this airport security issue, because it seems that the Democrat Party, in a split from the presidency and the nonpartisan spirit that we have been having in Washington, is hung up on trying to unionize and create a new Federal bureaucracy in the name of airport security.

There are pros and cons with that. We all know that. There are good employees and bad employees that are with the unions. It is a little more difficult to work with. But the issue is not creating a new government bureaucracy, the issue is protecting my children, my family, my loved ones, and your business associates and loved ones, when they travel.

I believe we need to do what is best for airport security and not what is